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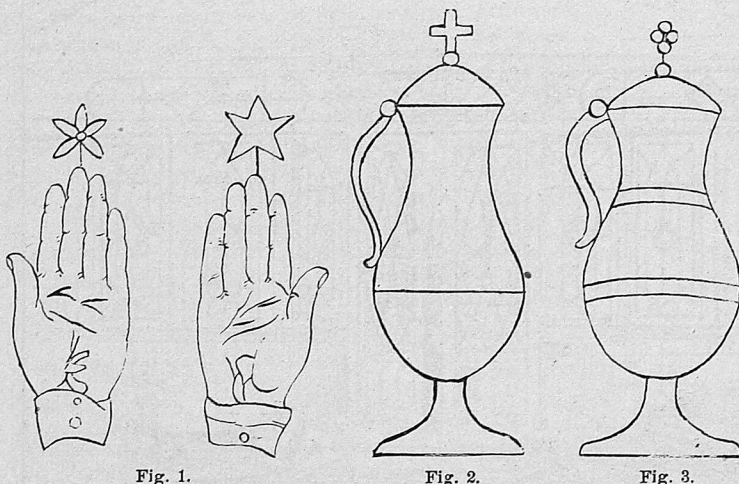
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ANCIENT PAPER MARKS.

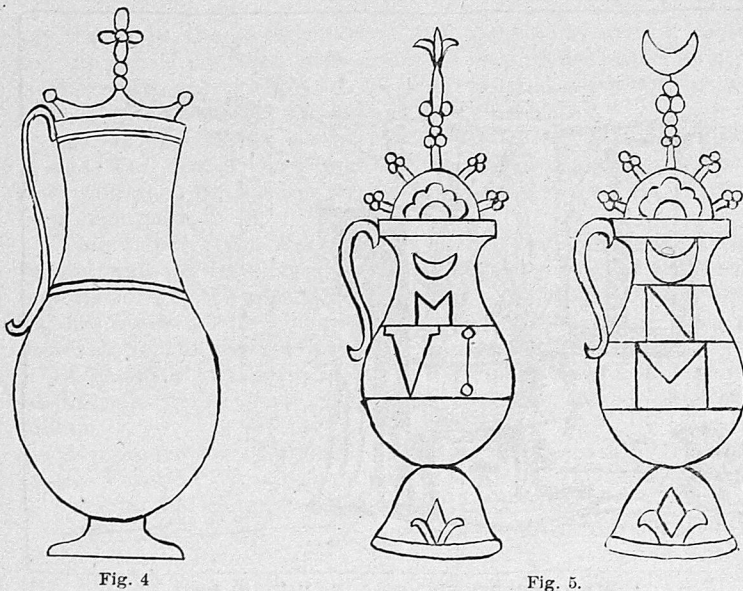


VERY one knows how frequently we are obliged to refer to ancient times to explain common terms of art and words which are in every one's mouth. We have a curious instance of this in the names which are given to the different sorts and sizes of paper. We all talk of foolscap paper, post paper, and note paper, and paper-makers and stationers have other terms of the same kind, as hand paper, pot paper, etc. Now the term note paper needs no explanation, as it plainly means paper of the size for writing notes, while post paper would be the larger size used for letters sent by mail. But when we come to foolscap paper we are altogether at a loss for an explanation, and therefore, must look for something else than the size of the paper as the origin of the name. If we go back to the early history of paper making, we find that terms which now puzzle us so much, may easily be explained by the various paper marks which have been in use at different times.

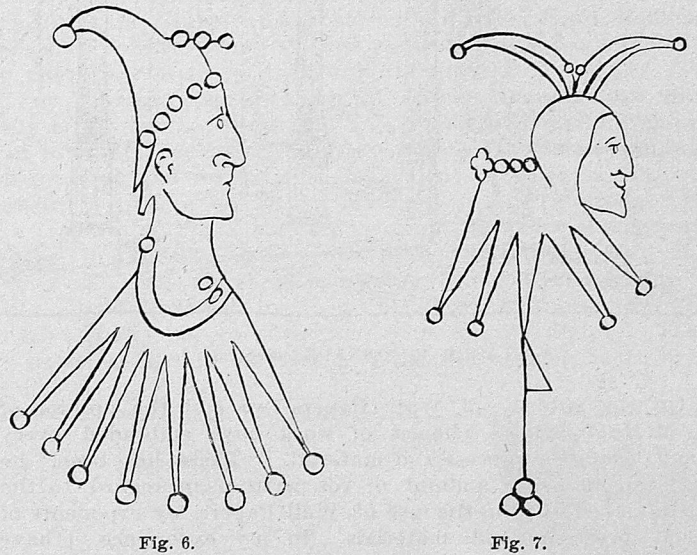
In olden times, when very few people could read, pictures of every kind were greatly in use where writing would now be



employed: every shop had a sign, as well as every public house; and these signs were not then, as they very often are now, only printed upon a board, they were always either painted pictures, as many inn-signs still are, or else models of the thing which the sign expressed, as we still sometime see a beehive on a tea canister. For the same reason printers always had some device which they put upon the title pages, and at the end of their books; and paper-makers used marks to distinguish their paper from that of other manufacturers. Some of these marks becoming common, naturally gave their name to different sorts of papers; and names, as we all know, remain long after the origin is forgotten and the circumstances changed, we shall not be surprised to find the old names still in use; though, perhaps, in some cases, they are not applied to the same things they originally denoted. It would be better, perhaps, to mention the chief paper marks which have, been used as they occur in the order of time. The first paper-maker in England is supposed to have been John Tate, who is said to have had a mill at Hertford: his device was a star of five points within a double circle. The first book printed on paper manufactured in England was a Latin one entitled "Bartholomew's de Proprietatibus Reserve." It was printed in 1495 or 1496, the paper seems to have been



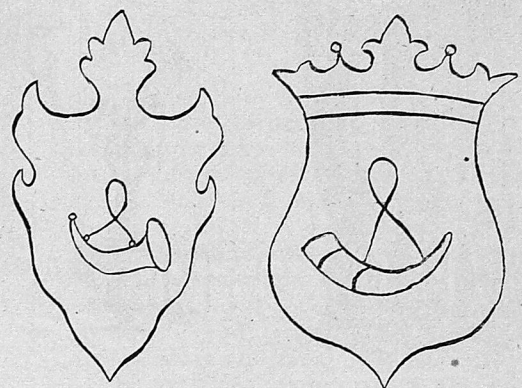
made by John Tate, Jr., and had the mark of a wheel. The paper used by Colton, and other early printers, had a great variety of marks, of which the chief are the ox-head and star, the letter (P), the shears, the hand and star, a collared dog's head, with a trefoil over it, a crown, a shield, with something like a bend upon it, etc., etc. The ox-head, sometimes with a star or a flower over it, is the mark of the paper on which Faust printed some of his early books; but the open hand, which was likewise a very ancient mark, remained longer in fashion, and probably



gave the name to what is still called hand paper. We give a representation of two which were copied from old written and printed books. The first of these two figures was taken from an old page at the beginning of a Bible, printed in 1539.

Another very favorite paper mark at a somewhat later period, was the jug or pot, which seems to have been the origin of the term pot paper. It is sometimes found plain, but oftener bears the initials or first letters of the maker's name; therefore, there is a very great variety of figures, every paper-maker having a somewhat different mark. The jugs or flagons are often of a very elegant shape, and are curious as showing the workmanship of the times in which they were made. Two of the specimens which we give of the former kind are taken from books printed in 1539; the other one is nearly the same date; the other two are very nearly a century later.

The foolscap was a later device, and does not seem to have been nearly of such long continuance as the former. It has given place to the figure of Brittoma, or that of a lion rampant, supporting the cap of liberty on a pole; the name, however, has



continued, and we still denominate paper of a particular size by the title of foolscap paper. The figures have the cap and bells which we so often read about in old plays and histories as the particular dress of the fool, who formerly formed part of every nobleman's establishment. Post paper seems to have derived its name from the post-horn which at one time was its distinguishing mark. This is of later date, and does not seem to have been used before the establishment of the General Post-office, when it was the custom to blow a horn. The papers from which these were copied are dated 1670 and 1679. The mark is still occasionally used, but the same change which has so much diminished the number of painted signs in the streets of towns and cities of England, has nearly made paper marks a matter of antiquarian curiosity; the maker's name being now generally used, and the mark, in the few instances where it still remains, serving the purpose of mere ornament rather than of distinction.

THE character of the work attempted by the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER and the excellence of its designs entitle the magazine to a place among the art publications. The designs and illustrations are attractive and interesting. —*Indianapolis Journal.*